

AFCS is delivered by SPVA

- SPVA is an Executive Agency of the MOD and is responsible for administering AFCS.
- SPVA aims to provide comprehensive assistance and advice to serving and former serving personnel and their families in accessing the scheme.
- The Agency also manages the War Pensions Scheme which is applicable to conditions caused by service prior to 6 April 2005.
- SPVA is also the focal point within the MOD for providing information and advice on a range of issues or concerns to veterans and their families.

More information about the AFCS can be obtained from:

AFCS
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP
England

Tel: 0800 169 2277

Tel: (from overseas) +44 1253 866043

Email: veterans.help@spva.gsi.gov.uk

Web: www.veterans-uk.info

Minicom: 0800 169 3458 *Lines are open:*
Monday to Thursday 8:15am to 5:15pm
Friday 8:15am to 4:30pm



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ARMED FORCES
Compensation
SCHEME

What is the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS)?

- It is a compensation package for members and former members of the Armed Forces effective from 6 April 2005.
- It replaces the previous compensation arrangements under the War Pensions Scheme, Armed Forces Pension and Reserve Forces Attributable Benefit Schemes. These arrangements will remain in place for compensating any injury, illness or death caused by service **before** 6 April 2005.

Who does it cover?

- The AFCS covers Regular (including Gurkhas), ex-Regular, Reserve and ex-Reserve personnel, whose **injury, illness or death is caused by service on or after 6 April 2005**.
- The AFCS will also provide benefits to spouses, civil partners, eligible partners and children.

What does it cover?

- The scheme pays compensation for significant injuries, illness and death that are caused by service. This includes injury, ill-health or death as the result of acts of terrorism and warlike accidents.
- The scheme does not cover minor injuries and illnesses.
- It is a 'no fault' scheme and individuals still have the option to sue the MOD for negligence.
- It does not cover injury, illness or death caused by service before 6 April 2005.

What are the scheme's benefits?

- For Service and ex-Service personnel there will be a tariff-based tax-free lump sum, which will vary according to the severity of the injury or illness.
The lump sum can be paid in-service.
- In addition, for more serious injury, a tax-free and index-linked Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) will be awarded for life.
GIP is paid only after discharge.
- On death-in-service or in retirement spouses, civil partners, eligible partners and their children can also qualify for GIP.
- GIP takes into account any benefits paid from the Armed and Reserve Forces Pension Schemes or equivalent civilian benefits.

When should I claim?

- Personnel can claim while still serving.
- Service and ex-Service personnel should make a claim within five years from the date of the event that caused the injury and/ or illness.
- Death in Service and some invaliding cases will be automatically considered by Service Personnel and Veterans Agency without the need for Service personnel or their families to claim.

How to claim?

- Claims should be submitted to the SPVA which is responsible for administering the scheme (see the contact details on the back page).

Where can I get help completing my claim form?

- By contacting the Veterans Helpline (UK) on Freephone 0800 169 2277.

What happens to my claim?

- SPVA will consider your claim using evidence from Service and civilian medical and Health and Safety records.
- Where it is considered more likely than not that your injury, illness or death was caused by service and the injury or illness is sufficiently serious, an award will be made.
- A full explanation will be provided in writing on any decision made, including rejections.
- There is a system of Reconsideration and Appeals through which any decision made by SPVA can be reviewed.

Where can I find more detail?

- If you want to know more or are thinking of claiming, you should read the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Booklet. (Reference MMP/125)
- Both publications are available from DSDA Bicester Tel: 01869 256052, and SPVA Norcross Tel: 0800 169 2277.

Copies are also available at:

Internet: www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/Personnel/Pensions/ArmedForcesPensions/

Intranet: <http://defenceintranet.diiweb.rmil.uk/DefenceIntranet/Admin/FindOutAboutArmedForcesPensions>